



Transportation Times

Adams-Allen-DeKalb-Wells

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Coordinating
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Adams County

C **Pam Holocher**
City of Fort Wayne
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City of Bluffton
Wells County

Terry McDonald
Allen County

William Hartman
Allen County

C **Todd Mahnensmith**
Wells County



2040 Transportation Plan

NIRCC recently completed the long range transportation plan update. The 2040 Transportation Plan is complete and has been adopted by the Urban Transportation Advisory Board. The 2040 Transportation Plan brochure will be printed and available later this summer. If you would like a copy of the brochure contact NIRCC or stop by our office and take a free copy once we have them in stock. You can download or view the 2040 Transportation Plan on our website at www.nircc.com. Here you can download maps and descriptions of the projects included in these plans as well.

What is the 2040 Transportation Plan you ask? The long range transportation plan is a 20-25 year, comprehensive transportation plan that addresses the future needs of the transportation system. The goal of the Transportation Plan is to achieve an efficient and safe transportation system for the movement of the people and goods while simultaneously improving the economic and environmental conditions of the community. The 2040 Transportation Plan includes highway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvement projects and policies. The projects and policies help the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC), the Urban Transportation Advisory Board (UTAB) and all the various jurisdictions address the future needs of the transportation system.

In This Issue

2040 Transportation Plan.....	pg 1,3
Community Development.....	pg 2
Vehicle Miles of Travel.....	pg 2
Wells County Trails Workshop...	pg 3-5
TIM Award.....	pg 5-6
Changes in NIRCC Staff.....	pg 7

NIRCC has adopted a long-range transportation plan every four to five years in the past depending on the Air Quality designation for our area. NIRCC's
(Continued on page 3)

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Fort Wayne Traffic Engineering

Shan Gunawardena
Fort Wayne Board of Public Works

Renee Fishering
Allen County Plan Commission

Jason Kaiser
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Fort Wayne Public Transportation Corp. (Citilink)

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Allen County Commissioner

Pam Holocher
Fort Wayne Representative

Scott Hinderman
Fort Wayne/Allen County Airport Authority

Mayor Terry McDonald
New Haven

William Hartman
Allen County Highway Director

Jay Mitchell
INDOT (Non-voting members)

B

Joyce Newland
Federal Highway Administration (Non-voting member)

Community Development Updates



Don't forget, NIRCC is available to assist communities within Adams, Allen, DeKalb, and Wells Counties with community and economic development activities? We can assist communities with projects receiving funding through a myriad of sources such as grants and loans from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), the State Revolving Fund (SRF), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other State, Federal, and private programs. The NIRCC community development team has the capabilities to assist with project development and to provide grant writing, grant administration, and labor standards administration services. Information regarding available funding opportunities and the community development services provided by the NIRCC community development team is available by contacting Matt Vondran at Matt.Vondran@co.allen.in.us, contacting Kristine Christlieb at Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us, or calling (260) 449-7309.

Vehicle Miles of Travel

NIRCC has completed the Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) report for 2017. In 2017 there was 7,652,446 vehicle miles traveled. This is 1.87% higher than in 2016 (7,511,644 Vehicle Miles of Travel). To calculate VMT statistics NIRCC utilizes traffic count data collected throughout the year. In 2017, approximately 842 locations were counted throughout Allen County and approximately 372 locations were counted throughout DeKalb County. NIRCC also collects count data for other counties. NIRCC plans on working in Allen County for the 2018 traffic counting program.



2040 Transportation Plan Update continued...

planning area is currently designated as an Air Quality Attainment Area meaning we have met or exceeded current air quality standards. With NIRCC's area being in attainment we are required to update the plan every five years rather than every four.

The purpose of updating the plan at least every five years is to ensure continuity for at least the next 20 years of planning and to allow for reassessment of area priorities.

Projects included in the 2040 Transportation Plan often go through many phases before construction ever begins.

Inclusion in the long range transportation plan is just the first step in a long process before implementation. For a project to be included in the long range transportation plan, NIRCC begins by identifying needs of travel demands that are not being met by the existing system. The staff conducts various citizen meetings to get the input of the community. They also study the traffic data that is collected within the region. After testing the weaknesses in the system, the staff proposes alternative solutions that will help meet the travel demands and enhance regional accessibility. From these alternatives, a list of all the projects that will provide the greatest benefits is developed. The projects are presented to UTAB, and they are either adopted or denied. The projects that are adopted and are economically feasible are recommended to NIRCC for inclusion in the 2040 Transportation Plan.

Once a project is included in the 2040 Transportation Plan, the next step toward implementation is inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a multi-year program for implementing transportation projects. Due to the limited amount of local, state and federal funding available each year for transportation improvements, it is important to prioritize the projects and in some cases, implement projects through several different phases. The phases a project goes through include preliminary engineering, right-of-way engineering and acquisition, and construction. What year the phase of a project is un-

dertaken is determined on project complexity, project cost, and available funding. The priority of projects is assessed each year when UTAB updates the TIP based on an evaluation of each project's progress and the available funding.

For more information about the 2040 Transportation Plan, contact the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council at (260) 449-7309, visit our website at www.nircc.com, or write NIRCC at the following address: 200 East Berry Street Suite 230, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. You can find the 2040 Transportation Plan on our website.



Wells County Trails Workshop

On April 25 the first Wells County Trails workshop was held at the Wells County Chamber of Commerce in Bluffton, IN. There was free pizza and refreshments for lunch, trail planning exercises, and great presentations from guest speakers at the event. People were able to find out more about what was going on in their communities as it related to trail development and how they could become more involved in trail expansion throughout Wells County. There were displays of current trail plans and the open house atmosphere allowed people to ask questions and make comments as well.



One of the features of the event included regional trail plans and how Wells County fits into the overall picture (see regional trail plans at <http://www.nircc.com/bicycle-pedestrian-planning.htm>). Wells County is one of 12 counties within the Northeast Indiana United Trails system. One of the State's priority trail corridors,

the Poka-Bache Connector, also stretches through central and northern portions of Wells County. The Poka-Bache Connector is an 81 mile trail corridor that will eventually connect Ouabache State Park in Wells County to Pokagon State Park near Angola. Over 30 miles of this trail corridor already exists throughout the region including a little more than 7 miles just in Wells County. The Poka-Bache Connector will also provide the connection from Wells County to the Allen County trail system. Because of where Wells County is located, it also has regional connections that stretch into Huntington County where it will eventually connect with the City of Huntington's trail system, Adams County where connections will eventually be made with the City of Decatur and the



Town of Geneva, and Grant County with the potential of someday connecting with the Cardinal Greenway in the City of Marion.

Besides regional trail connections, another feature at the event was to let people participate in various planning exercises to help shape what Wells County Trails should look like. There are many trails and connections needed throughout the cities and towns in Wells County. People were able to identify these needs as well as important destinations that needed to be included in the Wells County trail system.



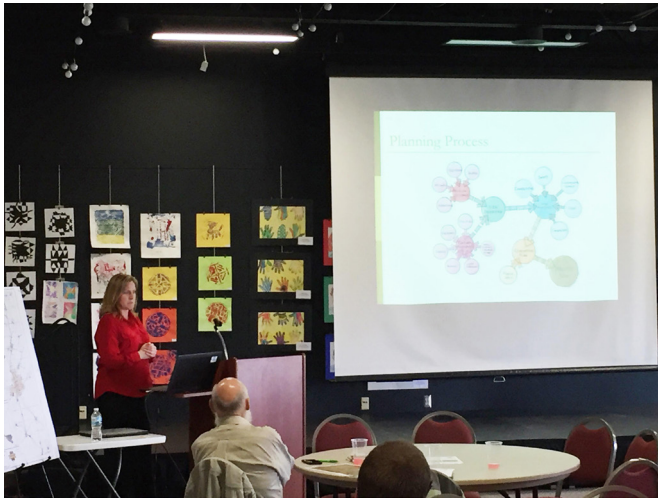
At the workshop people enjoyed listening to some great presentations about trail development and the positive impacts trails have had on other communities. Brooks Fetters, Mayor of the City of Huntington, presented about Huntington's trail system and talked a lot about projects that had recently been completed and the positive impacts they have already had on their community. Mayor Fetters has helped to transform the City of Huntington into a destination and a place people want to live and play. Trails have become an important part of their community in creating a place people want to live, work, and visit.



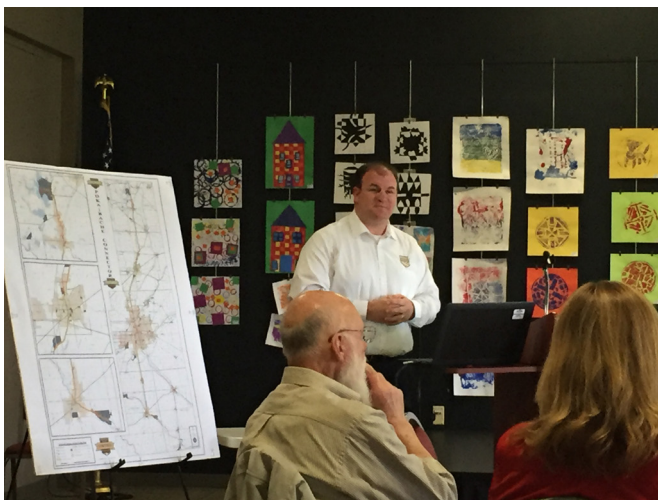
Dawn Ritchie, Greenways Manager for the City of Fort Wayne, spoke about the Northeast Indiana United Trails system and her experience with trail development. Dawn talked about the Poka-Bache Connector and its regional significance and discussed several sections that will be built this year in Allen County. Since Dawn spends a large amount of time developing trails and managing trail projects in Fort Wayne she was able to share with people how trails are built from the



planning stages all the way through construction. Trail projects can be just as complicated as a road project and there are many phases they go through before people can actually go out and enjoy them once they are built.



Kent Castleman, Executive Director for Fort Wayne Trails, Inc., presented about the important role that trail advocacy provides and the need for a nonprofit partner to help spur trail development within communities. The Fort Wayne Trails nonprofit has been instrumental in getting trail development in the Fort Wayne and Allen County area. Having a trail advocacy group not only creates support for trails within the community, but it also acts as the community voice and liaison between the public, government, and private partners. Fort Wayne Trails, Inc., along with former local nonprofits in the area, have raised millions of dollars to support trail development in Allen County. Kent talked about the importance of creating similar advocacy groups and nonprofit organizations in other counties, like Wells County, to be a driving force for trail development



within those communities. In fact, Kent has also assisted in helping Wells County create its first nonprofit trail group called "Wells County Trails".



The Wells County Trails task force will be holding a meeting on July 16 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Wells County Chamber of Commerce in Bluffton to present results from this past workshop. The meeting is open to whoever would like to be involved in some way with Wells County Trails. At the meeting, members will discuss the results from the workshop and create a plan for moving forward as Wells County's advocacy and nonprofit group for trail development. To find out more information contact Wells County Trails by email at (wellscountytrails@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook page (search "@WellsCountyTrails").

Traffic Incident Management (TIM)

(Northeast Indiana Traffic Incident Management Committee
Awarded For Its Effort)

First, let's start with a little background. In 2007 the Indiana Quick Clearance Working Group was created to research and develop Quick Clearance practices in the State of Indiana. In 2008 the In-TIME initiative was implemented and in 2009 the Indiana Quick Clearance Working Group was changed to IN-TIME (Indiana-Traffic Incident Management Effort). The purpose of the Indiana-Traffic Incident Management Effort (IN-TIME) is to have first responders, from all disciplines follow agreed upon multi-lateral policies and procedures focusing on an "Open Roads Philoso-

phy”. The Open Roads Philosophy is “Having all First Responders, after ensuring their own personal safety and the safety and security of any incident victims, to have as their top priority reducing congestion and the increased risks of secondary incidents for public/motorist safety”. The IN-TIME group also works to provide a common framework for development of traffic incident management (TIM) policies and training programs for the various responder disciplines. TIM is a planned and coordinated program process to detect, respond to, and remove traffic incidents and restore traffic capacity as safely and quickly as possible.

In 2013 the Northeast Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) assisted in forming a committee of local representatives to implement Traffic Incident Management (TIM) strategies in Northeast Indiana called the Northeast Indiana Traffic Incident Management Committee (NE IN TIM). NIRCC identified local public and private sector stakeholders that were interested in the concepts and fundamental mission of the initiative. The purpose of the committee was to develop and recommend policy and operational protocols for the safe and efficient mitigation of traffic incidents through training and education of all first responders.

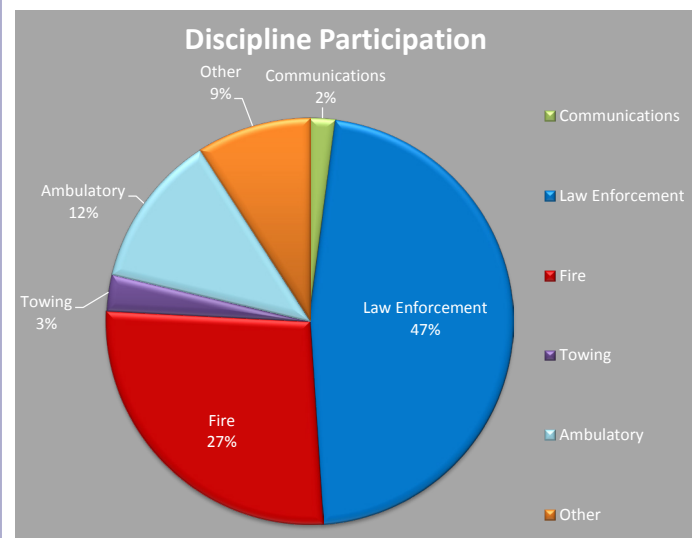
So far the Northeast Indiana Traffic Incident Management Committee has been a success! In fact, NE IN TIM was just recognized by the IN-TIME Committee at their last meeting for training over 1,400 first responders. An award was presented on April 17, 2018 in Fort Wayne by the IN-TIME Chair, Terry Treon. NE IN TIM Committee mem-



bers also participated in a panel discussion to share the program’s success in Northeast Indiana. The panel also offered specific details related to the most recent initiative which was the successful inclusion of the 4-Hour TIM training session within the annual police in-service training.



Since 2013, the Northeast Indiana Traffic Incident Management Committee has held 33 training sessions. The training has reached 1,413 responders from various disciplines that represent 91 agencies. In the chart below you can see a breakdown per discipline, since 2013, of the participation in TIM training in Northeast Indiana.



Changes in NIRCC Staff



NIRCC would like to welcome two new staff members to the NIRCC family. Kristine Christlieb began at NIRCC last fall and Debbie Magsam, our newest member, started just this spring. Although the welcome is long overdue, both have made themselves at home here at NIRCC and have proven to be great additions to our team!

Debbie Magsam



NIRCC has a new face and voice greeting our customers and taking calls. Debbie Magsam joined our staff February 26, 2018 as Office Manager/ Administrative Assistant. Debbie previously worked for IPFW for the last 10 years. For most of those years she worked as an Administrative Assistant in the Engineering building

and most recently for the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Born and raised in St. Louis, MO, Debbie moved with her family to the northeast side of Fort Wayne as a teenager. She currently resides there today with her husband, John. Debbie has four grown children and one granddaughter. Debbie enjoys spending time with her family, vacations to Lake Michigan and listening to podcasts.

Kristine Christlieb

Kristine Christlieb joined the NIRCC team in August, 2017 and brings with her a dedication to community, and a belief that one should set goals —be steadfast— and be grateful to those who've helped you along the



way. These values have been a driving force during her years as community development planner writing and/or administering over \$11 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) awarded in northeast Indiana during her 6+ years

of employment at Region 3A Development. Kristine will continue these efforts in our four-county region to acquire grant funding to support local development projects, perform grant and labor standard administrations, park planning, and assist local entities with various grant and planning opportunities. In addition to writing various CDBG grants, Kristine has written approved Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plans, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) grants, a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant, as well as writing a comprehensive crisis communication plan for a local hospital. In 2001, Kristine applied for— and was awarded the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship while working as a paraprofessional and job coach of mildly disabled high-school students. Kristine completed a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Trine University (formerly Tri-State University) in 2005. She also has past experience in marketing and bookkeeping. In her spare time, Kristine volunteers as a pianist at her local church, enjoys jogging at the park, and spending time with family.

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